

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

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USIA-15 DRC-01 /111 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5979

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1583

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CU BF XR

SUBJ: BAHAMIAN INTEREST IN CUBA DEVELOPMENTS

REF: STATE 196124

SUMMARY: REFTEL AND MEDIA REPORTS ON OAS TREATMENT OF CUBAN EMBARGO ISSUE WILL INTENSIFY BAHAMIAN INTEREST IN MATTER AS WELL AS GENERAL QUESTION OF CUBA'S STATUS WITHIN HEMISPHERE AND WITH U.S. SPECIAL BAHAMIAN INTEREST, COUPLED WITH ITS NON-MEMBERSHIP IN OAS, LEAD EMBASSY TO URGE THAT US GOVERNMENT, THROUGH EMBASSY, KEEP GCOB INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS WELL IN ADVANCE OF PUBLICATION. END SUMMARY

1. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THIS ISSUE HAVE HEIGHTENED NORMALLY KEEN GCOB INTEREST IN CUBA AND ITS FOREIGN RELATIONS. IN COURSE OF AMBASSADOR'S INITIAL COURTESY CALL ON MINEXTAFF ADDERLEY SEPT 5, LATTER RAISED SUBJECT OF CUBA IN GENERAL MANNER, POINTING TO REALITIES OF BAHAMIAN GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION VIS-A-VIS CUBA AND U.S. AND NOTING THAT WHILE BAHAMAS WOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE CLOSER TIES WITH U.S. THAN WITH CUBA, GCOB MUST LIVE WITH BOTH.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT BAHAMIAN INTEREST IN CUBAN ISSUE IS BASED ON SEVERAL FACTORS. BAHAMIAN CONTACTS WITH CUBA HAVE BEEN NO MORE THAN FORMALLY CORRECT IN PAST, LARGELY AS A TACIT  
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RESPONSE TO US ATTITUDES, AND GCOB DOES NOT WISH TO BE LEFT BEHIND IF ATTITUDES TOWARD CUBA AND STATE OF RELATIONS WITH

HER, PARTICULARLY INsofar AS US CONCERNED, CHANGE. SECONDLY, INsofar AS BAHAMAS HAS SECURITY CONCERNS, THESE HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TOWARD ITS SOUTHERN NEIGHBOR MORE THAN ANY OTHER, AND GCOB WILL WISH TO FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING CUBA'S ACCEPTABILITY IN THE HEMISPHERE VERY CLOSELY. (IN BRIEFINGS PRIOR TO AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE FOR POST, IT WAS EMPHASIZED TO HIM THAT SHARED US-BAHAMIAN PERCEPTION OF MUTUAL SECURITY INTERESTS IS IMPORTANT TO SUCCESS OF FACILITIES NEGOTIATIONS). THIRDLY, BAHAMIAN TOURIST INDUSTRY DEVELOPED IN LATE 50'S AND EARLY 60'S IN LARGE PART BECAUSE OF CLOSURE OF CUBA TO WESTERN TOURISTS, ESPECIALLY US TOURISTS, AND FOR THIS REASON TOO GCOB WOULD WISH TO STAY ON TOP OF A CHANGING SITUATION WHICH MIGHT AFFECT ITS OWN POSITION IN THE REGIONAL TOURIST MARKET.

3. IT APPEARS THAT DISCUSSIONS ON HEMISPHERIC AND US ATTITUDES TOWARD CUBA WILL TAKE PLACE AT HIGH LEVELS AMONG KEY NATIONS AND WITHIN CONFINES OF OAS. BAHAMAS IS NOT AN OAS MEMBER, OF COURSE, AND IS UNLIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED KEY IN THIS CONTEXT. NEVERTHELESS, FOR THE REASONS STATED ABOVE, AND MORE GENERALLY BECAUSE OF THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP THE BAHAMAS BELIEVES IT HAS WITH U.S., EMBASSY HOPES DEPARTMENT WILL CONSIDER IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING BAHAMIANS INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS IMPORTANT AREA. NOT TO DO SO, IN EMBASSY VIEW, WOULD IN THE EVENTUALITY OF SUCH DEVELOPMENTS CREATE AT THE VERY LEAST HURT FEELINGS AMONG GCOB LEADERS LIKE PRIME MINISTER PINDLING AND ADDERLEY, BOTH OF WHOM CONSIDER THEMSELVES RESPONSIBLE STATESMEN FUNDAMENTALLY FRIENDLY TO THE US, AND BOTH OF WHOM HAVE AN EXCELLENT RECORD OF KEEPING SENSITIVE INFORMATION CLOSELY HELD.

4. EMBASSY HOPES THAT DEPARTMENT WILL BEAR IN MIND SPECIAL POSITION OF BAHAMAS CONCERNING CUBAN SITUATION AND US-CUBAN RELATIONSHIP AND WILL CONSIDER KEEPING GCOB INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS WELL IN ADVANCE OF THEIR PUBLICATION.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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